

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of producing a piezoelectric element comprising
- forming a piezoelectric body material having a layered perovskite structure into a green sheet having a crystallographic C axis;
- printing an electrode paste onto the green sheet at a plurality of positions such that the resulting electrode paste printings are substantially parallel to each other on the green sheet;
- laminating a plurality of said green sheets such that the electrode paste printings are interposed between piezoelectric body material, whereby a laminate is formed;
- firing the laminate such that the C ~~axes~~ axis of the piezoelectric body materials ~~are~~ is oriented substantially parallel to the lamination direction of the laminate; and
- polarizing the fired laminate substantially perpendicular to the orientation direction of the C ~~axes~~ axis.

2. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of green sheets are laminated such that ~~an~~ the electrode paste printing on each of at least two green sheets overlap one another in the lamination direction.

3. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 2, wherein the electrode paste printings are effected in substantially straight lines.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 3, wherein each electrode paste printing has first and second ends, and including disposing a conductor at said first end and an insulator at said second end.

5. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 4, wherein said disposing ~~[[a]] the~~ conductor at said first end and ~~[[an]] the~~ insulator at said second end is effected such that the first end of one of a pair of adjacent parallel printings is adjacent the second end of the other of the pair of adjacent parallel printings.

6. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 5, including electrically connecting first ends of printings which overlap one another in the lamination direction to the same potential.

7. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 6, wherein the piezoelectric ceramic body is selected from the group consisting of $\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{4.6}\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{CaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{SrBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ and $\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_{12}$.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 1, wherein the laminating is such that a plurality of electrodes are arranged in an interdigital electrode form.

9. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 1, wherein the electrode paste printings are effected in substantially straight lines.

10. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 9, wherein such electrode paste printings has first and second ends, and including disposing a conductor at said first end and an insulator at said second end.

11. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 1, wherein each electrode paste printing has a first and second ends, and including disposing a conductor at said first end and an insulator at said second end.

12. (New) The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 11, wherein said disposing the conductor at said first end and the insulator at said second end is effected such that the first end of one of a pair of adjacent parallel printings is adjacent the second end of the other of the pair of adjacent parallel printings.

13. (New) The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 12, including electrically connecting first ends of printings which overlap one another in the lamination direction to the same potential.

14. (New) The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 13, wherein the piezoelectric ceramic body is selected from the group consisting of

$\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{4.6}\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{CaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{SrBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ and $\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_{12}$.

15. (New) The method of producing a piezoelectric element according to claim 1, wherein the piezoelectric ceramic body is selected from the group consisting of

$\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{Bi}_{4.6}\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{CaBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$, $\text{SrBi}_4\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_{15}$ and $\text{Bi}_4\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_{12}$.